Service Tax on Pre-paid Cards

2343. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the private mobile operators in the country, the Airtel in particular, have increased their processing and service tax on pre-paid cards from 35 per cent—50 per cent, without any notice to the subscribers; and

(b) if so, the action prooosed to be taken for this clandestine increase in processing and service tax in the garb of making incoming calls free?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Sir, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), as per the TRAI act, is reponsible for fixation of tariffs for Telecom Services in the country. As per information furnished by TRAI, some private operators for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) including, Bharti group of companies which have a brand name of Airtel for providing CMTS, have recently revised their pre-paid tariff schemes. This revision *inter-alia*, includes an increase in the processing fee and reduction in call charges. However, no instance has come to notice where the revised tariffs have been implemented without intimation to the subscribers.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Cyber-Terrorism

2344. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up any Committee to fight out cyber-terrorism;

(b) if so, the composition thereof and the areas of the function assigned to it;

(c) whether any methodology has been devised for intercepting SMS, e-mails and cyber-related crimes;